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CAPITAL LINE

USA TODAY'S BRIEFING ON WASHINGTON

CIA wants probe of NBC spy case report



CASEY: 1950 law is
at issue

AP

CIA Director William Casey is asking the Justice Department to investigate NBC-TV for possibly violating a 1950 espionage law. Casey claims a Monday Today show report — which said accused spy Ronald Pelton may have given the Soviets information about eavesdropping by USA submarines in Soviet harbors — illegally discloses communications intelligence. NBC said it had referred the matter to lawyers; it had no further comment. Casey recently said five news groups should be prosecuted for violating the law, but nothing came of it.